(d) whether Government are aware that the lowering of age will put the working parents to a lot of difficulties;

(e) whether Government propose to review the decision, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether it is a fact that the number of creches in Delhi is highly inadequate and there are demands for opening more such creches and for increasing the capacity of existing creches; and

(g) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the areas in Delhi where Government propose to open more such creches in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) Creches in various Central Government colonies/office premises and in Community Centres were established by the Grih Kalyan Kendra primarily for children in the age group of 90 days to 7 years. However, as a temporary measure, children beyond 7 years of age were permitted to continue till such time as this was not found inconvenient to the children of the specified age groups. In view of the fact that there is shortage of accommodation and the demand for admission of children in the age group of 90 days to 7 years has greatly increased, the Kendra is not in a position to accommodate such children who are above the specified age group. Sufficient advance notice of six months was given to the affected parents to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. However as the capacity of existing creches can not be increased due to shortage of space, the Department has planned to set up new creches in every Samaj Sadan as and when they come up.

Telecasting need based and purpose orienttd serials on Doordarshan

834. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals with the Doordarshan to telecast need based and purpose oriented serials on the topics such as rearing up of children, establishing harmony between the spouses etc. with different social and personal problems with scientific attitude; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has been telecasting need based and purpose oriented serials on socially relevant topics. Under the new sponsorship scheme opened in October last year also, proposals for serials were invited in various categories such as social themes, family serials, children's interest serials, Science serials, etc. These are presently being processed by Doordarshan for approval.

Divisive forces in J&K

835. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that divisive forces in Jammu & Kashmir are openly playing anti-Indian role;

(b) if so, what steps were taken by Government to curb these activities; and

(c) what is the role of Pakistan in promoting such activities in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The divisive forces in Jammu & Kashmir are exhibiting anti-national feelings.

(b) Government have taken a number of administrative measures to contain militant and secessionist activities and inflow of weapons from across the border which include better border management, beafing?up or intelligence set-up and relentless pressure on them by the security forces.

(c) These forces are getting material help in arms, equipment, training and guidance and motivation from across the border.

Rise in the poverty in rural and urban areas of the country

836. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what according to the analysis, if any, is the rise in the poverty line in the rural and urban areas in the country at the end of 1990 vis-a-vis rise in the percentage of inflation;

(b) what are the names of the States having the highest number of households below the poverty line at the end of 1990 as compared to poverty line at the end of 1989; and

(c) what is the strategy, if any, formulated by Government in allevating poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) and (b) The rise in the poverty line in rural and urban areas in the country in 1989-90 over 1988-89 is 6.6 per cent based on the quick estimates of Private Consumption Expenditure released by Central Statistical Organisation. The average Wholesale Price Index has increased by 7.5 per cent in 1989-90 over 1988-89. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1987-88. Estimates for the years 1988-89 and 1989-90 have not been made.

(c) The approach to the Eighth Five Year Plan as approved by the National Development Council, envisages accelerated process of reduction in poverty primarily through maximising productive employment opportunities.

Harassment to Journalists

837. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the harassment faced by journalists in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have ordered any probe into such incidents; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government view with concern any incident of harassment of or assault on journalists. Where the harassment is because of law and order problem, appropriate action is taken by State Government/Union Territory. However, in pursuance of Government's deep commitment to the Freedom of Press, the Ministry of Home Affairs have issued instructions to States/Union Territories from time to time to provide adequate security to journalists.

Deaths under police custody

838. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of deaths that took place under police custody in such